per the recent amendment in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, any person, who could not make declaration under sub section (1) or sub section (4) of Section 40 earlier, has now been provided with an opportunity to declare to the Chief Wildlife Warden or the authorized officer of the concerned state any captive animal, animal article, trophy or uncured trophy derived from animals specified in Schedule-I or Part II of Schedule-II that are in his control, custody or possession.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government have issued a Notification on 18th April, 2003 in exercise of powers conferred by sub sections 1 and 3 of section 40A laying down the rules for declaration of wildlife stock in the prescribed form and within prescribed time limit. The details of the notification have been published in the Gazette of India (Extra Ordinary) dated April 18, 2003. A maximum period of twelve months as been provided in the notification of arriving at a final decision by the State Government. No information regarding the number of persons having obtained certificate of ownership has been received from the State Government.

Threat by parasitic plants to flowers of Himalayan region

2128. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a standing threat due to infection from parasitic plants to the famous valley of flowers in the Himalayan region;

(b) if so, the intensity of the threat and the reasons thereof;

(c) what steps are being taken to protect the valley of flowers; and

(d) whether Government propose to set up any technical group to protect the environment from degrading?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Protection and management of Valley of Flowers National Park is with the State Government of Uttaranchal. However, the Central

Government provides technical and financial assistance for development of national parks. The financial assistance provided to Valley of Flowers National Park under the scheme, "Assistance for Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries" was Rs. 7.90 lakhs and Rs 5.50 lakhs during 2001-02 and 2002-03, respectively.

(d) No, Sir.

Pollution in Ganga and Yamuna Rivers due to sewage and drainage

†2129. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to check flow of nallahs carrying sewage and drainage into Ganga and Yamuna rivers and polluting them as a result thereof;

(b) whether Government are planning to double the expenditure being incurred at present for protecting Ganga and Yamuna from pollution; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) The measures taken by the Government to check flow of nallahs into the rivers Ganga and Yamuna include interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and divert them for treatment in sewage treatment plants.

(b) and (c) the X Plan outlay for National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is Rs. 1417 crore. The Planning Commission has agreed to review the budget provision of National River Conservation Plan which covers pollution abatement works in 157 towns along polluted stretches of 31 rivers spread over 18 States, from the present Rs. 1417 crore to Rs.1825 crore during the mid-term review of the X Plan. The present assessment suggests a requirement of additional Rs. 2000 crore to tackle the balance pollution load of important towns on the banks of river Ganga and Yamuna alone.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.